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LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES UTILIZATION AND RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN UNIVERSITIES IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated the influence of Library Information Resources Utilization and Research Productivity of Academic Staff in Universities in Benue State, Nigeria. Three objectives with corresponding research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a survey research design. The target population for this study was 1,476 of all academic staff in the three universities in Benue State - Joseph SarwuanTarka University, Benue State University and University of Mkar, Mkar. Sample size for this study was 315 academic staff. Sampling techniques used were purposive sampling, proportionate stratified random sampling and accidental sampling. The instrument for data collection was a self- developed structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Library Information Resources Utilization on Research Productivity of Academic Staff in Universities Questionnaire (ILIRURPASUQ)". The reliability of the questionnaire was established using Cronbach Alpha method and a reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of Frequency Counts, Percentages, Mean, Standard Deviation to answer the research questions and Chi-Square Statistic to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Findings of the study revealed that, the information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State include: textbooks, journal articles, magazines, newspapers, conference proceedings, research reports, monographs, government documents, projects, theses, dissertations, dictionaries, encyclopedias, indexes, abstracts and databases among others. The finding also revealed that, utilization of library information resources like textbooks and journal articles to a high extent has significantly influence positively the research productivity of academic staff in Universities in Benue State. Recommendations were made among others that, there should be continuous sensitization of academic staff on the availability of information resources that are found to be utilized for research productivity in the university libraries, and also enlighten academic staff through workshops on the relevance of electronic resources such as e-maps, videos, DVDs and CDs in enhancing research productivity. Also, university libraries should be well equipped with relevant text books, current and relevant journal articles and also ensure continuous sensitization of academic staff on their availability in the library since its utilization is found to enhance research productivity of academic staff.

Keywords: Information Resources, Research Productivity, Textbooks and Journals

Introduction

Libraries play a central role in the achievement of the university mandate and this role manifest in the provision of information resources that support the educational objectives of university in teaching, learning and research. Information resources are materials that satisfy information needs of people. Popoola and Haliso in Buhari (2016) assert that information resources are those information bearing materials that are in both print and electronic formats. The print format include textbooks, journals, reference materials (e.g. encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes, abstracts) and theses/dissertations among others, while electronic format include databases, e- books, e- journal, e-databases, CD-ROMs, internet, e-mails, video, microforms, magnetic disk, tapes/cassettes among others. Teaching, learning and research may be carried out effectively if these information resources are utilized.

Utilization of library information resources is of outmost importance to researchers especially academic staff in their commitment to excellence in teaching, research and professional development. These information resources enable academic staff to access textbooks, journal articles, reference materials, databases, and multimedia. Academic staff may utilize these information resources for teaching and instruction, research and scholarship, professional development, information literacy and critical thinking skills. Olasore and Adekunmisi (2015) reported that majority of lecturers use library information resources for research and lecture purposes. Also, Haliso and Laja-Ademola (2013) asserted that lecturers consult library information sources in order to keep up with current development in their field. The importance of utilization of library information resources particularly to academic staff cannot be overemphasized in any university system because their productivity in terms of teaching, publication, promotion, appointment are largely dependent on the availability and use of information resources. This implies that library information resources utilization may influence academic staff research productivity.

Research productivity may be defined as the extent to which academic staff are efficient in their use of information resources to enhance their conduct of research, scholarly publications, lecture delivery and supervision of students' projects, theses and dissertations. Goel in Ani *et al*., (2014) defines Productivity as the number of articles published in standard journals within a period. In the view of Creswell in Okiki (2013), research productivity is the extent to which lecturers engage in their own research and publish scientific articles in refereed journals, conference proceedings, writing a book or a chapter, gathering and analyzing original evidence, working with postgraduate students on dissertations and class projects, obtaining research grants, carrying out editorial duties, obtaining patents and licenses, writing monographs, developing experimental designs, producing works of an artistic or a creative nature, engaging in public debates and commentaries.

Research productivity is very important in the life of an academic staff. It is a major requirement in attaining academic success in terms of promotions, research grants, appointments and general career development (Okiki, 2013). Furthermore, research productivity of academic staff generates new knowledge which may or may not be published inform of textbooks, journal articles, indexes, abstracts, theses, dissertations, monographs among others as additional information resources. Research productivity activities develop knowledge transfer skills of academic staff that are useful for teaching effectiveness. Also research productivity enables academic staff and their institution to gain recognition locally and internationally.

In addition, the teaching and supervision of students' projects, theses and dissertations are also necessary for promotion of academic staff (University of Agriculture Makurdi, Nigeria, Revised conditions and schemes of service for senior staff, 2015). For academic staff to teach effectively, they need textbooks to prepare lecture materials. Academic staff also search or gather information from textbooks, journals, theses in other to supervise postgraduate students effectively.

Statement of Problem

The utilization of library information resources and its influence on the research productivity of academic staff is an important area of investigation in the field of higher education. While university libraries play a crucial role in providing access to a wide range of information resources, including books, journals, and databases, it remains uncertain how effectively academic staff utilize these information resources to enhance their research productivity.

There is lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the relationship between library information resource utilization and the research productivity of academic staff. Despite the substantial investments made by universities in acquiring and maintaining library collections, there is limited empirical evidence to assess the extent to which these information resources contribute to the research productivity of academic staff, it is in view of this that the researcher sought to investigate the influence of library information resources utilization and research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following objectives

1. find out the types of information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State.
2. determine the extent to which the utilization of textbooks influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.
3. ascertain the extent to which the utilization of journal articles influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.

Research Questions

The study answered the following research questions:

1. What are the types of information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State?
2. To what extent does the utilization of textbooks influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State?
3. To what extent does the utilization of journal articles influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State?

Hypotheses

1. Utilization of textbooks does not significantly influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.
2. Utilization of journal articles does not significantly influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.

Theoretical Analysis

This work made use of Uses and gratification theory (UGT) by Elihu Katz, 1959 and Information Utility Theory by Ross J. Todd, 1994. The Uses and gratification theory is an approach to understanding why people seek out specific media to satisfy specific needs. It is concerned with what people do with the media. People use the media for different purposes to satisfy their needs. The theory reveals that people use the media for relaxation, entertainment, social prestige and for some, it is to find out about world affairs (get very useful information). Following this, UGT was used to classify audience needs and gratifications into four categories : Surveillance – information about things that might affect one or will help one to accomplish something; personal relationship – social utility of information in conversations/substitute of the media for companionship; personal identity or individual psychology - value reinforcement, self-assurance, self-understanding, reality exploration; diversion – escape from routine and problems (emotional release).

University library is one of the media centers and it makes available information resources to its audience. The audience in this case is the library users which comprise students, academic staff, researchers and the entire university community. The UGT is relevant to this study because it is about what academic staff, students and researchers do with information resources for gratification. The surveillance need and gratification under UGT applies to academic staff. This is because academic staff have needs of teaching, supervision of projects, theses, dissertations, publication of books, articles in journals and they use library information resources (media) such as textbooks, journals, which might help or aid in meeting their gratifications or accomplishing their task of research productivity. Also, UGT is applicable to academic because when they utilized library information resources and publish articles, books, monographs, they get promoted and their positions are enhanced.

Also, this work made use of Information Utility Theory by Ross J. Todd, 1994.The theory is all about information products and their utilization. It states that a user of

information products will keep on demanding and using information resources provided that he or she derives maximum satisfaction from their use, or that the source being utilized continues to meet his or her information needs. Information utility theory is based on Bertran Brookes' "Fundamental Equation of Science" published in 1980. Todd reviewed this work and conceptualized a theoretical framework known as the information utility theory for furthering the understanding of the cognitive aspect of information utilization. This theory was initially applied in collection development as it provided acquisition librarians the guide to buy more of titles which are heavily utilized while discarding those that are no longer useful to users.

Information utility theory (IUT) is relevant to this study because it provides the basis for understanding user's behaviour towards the utilization of library information resources. Users of information resources particularly academic staff will keep on demanding and utilizing information resources that provide maximum satisfaction for their research productivity.

Research Methodology

The design of the study was survey research design. The population of the study was 1,476 of all academic staff in the three universities in Benue State which include: Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (792); Benue State University (604); and University of Mkar, Mkar (80). Sample size for this study was 315 academic staff. Sampling techniques used were purposive sampling, proportionate stratified random sampling and accidental sampling. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed structured questionnaire titled "'Influence of Library Information Resources Utilization on Research Productivity of Academic Staff in Universities Questionnaire ": (ILIRURPASUQ)'." The questionnaire was validated by experts in Library and Information Science and Measurement and Evaluation. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using Cronbach Alpha method and a reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of Frequency Counts, Percentages, Mean, Standard Deviation to answer the research questions and Chi-Square Statistic to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. A bench mark of 2.50 was used for decision. Item with a mean value of 2.50 and above was rated high extent while those below 2.50 were rated low extent.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the types of information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Frequency Counts and Percentage Analysis of the types of information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State

S/No	Resources	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE (%)		DECISION
		U	NU	U	NU	
1	Textbooks	294	8	97.4	2.6	Utilized
2	Journal articles	297	5	98.3	1.7	Utilized
3	Magazines	182	120	60.3	39.7	Utilized
4	News Papers	197	105	65.2	34.8	Utilized
5	News Letters	143	159	47.4	52.6	Not Utilized
6	Conference Proceedings	262	40	86.8	13.2	Utilized

7	Research Reports	247	55	81.8	18.2	Utilized
8	Monographs	172	130	57.0	43.0	Utilized
9	Government documents	177	125	58.6	41.4	Utilized
10	Patents	94	208	31.1	68.9	Not Utilized
11	Projects	269	33	89.1	10.9	Utilized
12	Theses	288	14	95.4	4.6	Utilized
13	Dissertations	288	14	95.4	4.6	Utilized
14	Dictionaries	256	46	84.8	15.2	Utilized
15	Encyclopedias	250	52	82.8	17.2	Utilized
16	Indexes	179	123	59.3	40.7	Utilized
17	Abstracts	221	81	73.2	26.8	Utilized
18	Maps	162	140	53.6	46.4	Utilized
19	E-Books	251	51	83.1	16.9	Utilized
20	E-Journals	257	45	85.1	14.9	Utilized
21	E-databases	252	50	83.4	16.6	Utilized
22	E-Conference Proceedings	221	81	73.2	26.8	Utilized
23	E-Projects	191	111	63.2	36.8	Utilized
24	E-Theses	209	93	69.2	30.8	Utilized
25	E-Dissertations	206	96	68.2	31.8	Utilized
26	E-Research Reports	208	94	68.9	31.1	Utilized
27	E-Maps	142	160	47.0	53.0	Not Utilized
28	Videos	137	165	45.4	54.6	Not Utilized
29	DVDs	117	185	38.7	61.3	Not Utilized
30	CDs	120	182	39.7	60.3	Not Utilized

From the table as presented, the respondents indicated except for items 5, 10, 27, 28, 29 and 30 with 'percentage values for utilized below 50%, all the other items had percentage values above 50% and were considered the types of information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State.

Research Question 2: To what extent does the utilization of textbooks influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of the extent to which the utilization of textbooks influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State

S/N	Item Statement	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean	SD	Decision
31	The use of textbooks influences up-dating of knowledge.	151	100	50	1	3.33	1.10	HE
32	The use of textbooks influences authoritative source of knowledge.	148	124	28	2	3.38	.99	HE
33	Use of textbooks influences development of lecture materials.	142	102	47	11	3.24	1.21	HE
34	Use of textbooks, influence effective supervision of students' projects.	105	124	67	10	3.10	.89	HE
35	Use of textbooks influences supervision of students' theses and dissertations.	104	121	67	10	3.06	.93	HE

36	The use of textbooks influences writing of conference papers.	110	105	65	22	3.00	1.00	HE
37	Using of textbooks influence writing of articles for publication.	112	95	74	21	2.99	.93	HE
38	Use of textbooks influences writing of books.	138	91	59	14	3.17	1.11	HE
39	The use of textbooks influences writing of chapter (s) in book.	142	99	49	12	3.23	1.03	HE
	Cluster Mean					3.17	1.02	HE

Source: Field Work: 2019

From the table as presented, the respondents rated high extent to all the items (item 31 – 39) with mean values ranging from 2.99 – 3.38 which are above the benchmark of 2.50. The table also revealed close Standard Deviation values ranging from .89 - 1.21 which showed the homogeneity of the responses of the respondents. The table further revealed a cluster mean of 3.17 and SD= 1.02. With this cluster mean (3.17) which is above the benchmark of 2.50, it means that, textbooks utilization to a high extent influence the research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.

Research Question 3: To what extent does the utilization of journal articles influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of the extent to which the utilization of journal articles influence research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State

S/N	Item Statement	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean	SD	Dec.
40	Use of journal articles influences quality source of knowledge.	184	89	27	2	3.51	.90	HE
41	Use of journal articles influences current source of knowledge.	185	102	15	0	3.56	..83	HE
42	Use of journal articles influences writing of research papers for publication.	186	95	21	0	3.55	.89	HE
43	The use of journal articles influences effective supervision of students' projects.	143	111	32	16	3.26	.91	HE
44	The use of journal articles influences effective supervision of students' theses and dissertations.	130	119	36	17	3.20	.93	HE
45	Use of journal articles influences writing of books.	125	103	58	16	3.08	1.01	HE
46	Use of journal articles influences writing of chapter (s) in book.	121	105	59	17	3.06	.97	HE
47	The use of journal articles influences writing of conference papers.	156	95	24	27	3.26	.88	HE
	Cluster Mean					3.31	.92	HE

Source: Field Work: 2019

From the table as presented, the respondents rated high extent to all the items (40 – 47) with mean values ranging from 3.06 – 3.56 which are above the benchmark of 2.50. The table also revealed close Standard Deviation values ranging from .83- 1.01 which showed the homogeneity of the responses of the respondents. The table further revealed a cluster mean of 3.31 and SD= .92. It means that, journal utilization to a high extent influence the research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.

Hypothesis 1: Utilization of textbooks does not significantly influence research productivity of academic staff in Universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi- Square Test of the Influence of Textbooks Utilization on Research Productivity of Academic Staff in Universities in Benue State

	Df	x^2cal	Sig	Alpha Level	Remark
Pearson Chi-Square	24	968.442	.000	.05	Significant
Number of Valid Cases		302			

Df = Degree of Freedom; x^2cal **= Chi-Square Calculated Value; Sig = P-Value**

Table 7 showed the Chi-square calculated value of 968.442, degree of freedom df=24 and a sig (P-value=0.00) which is less than the alpha value (á=.05). Since P<.05, the result was significant, therefore the null hypothesis was rejected. This implied that, textbooks utilization has significant influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2: Utilization of journal articles does not significantly influence research productivity of academic staff in Universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 5: Chi -Square Test of the Influence of Journal Articles Utilization on Research Productivity of Academic Staff in Universities in Benue State

	Df	x^2cal	Sig	Alpha Level	Remark
Pearson Chi-Square	21	989.712	.000	.05	Significant
Number of Valid Cases		302			

Df = Degree of Freedom; x^2 cal **= Chi-Square Calculated Value; Sig = P-Value**

Table 8 showed the Chi-square calculated value of 989.712, degree of freedom df=21 and a sig (P -value=0.00) which was less than the alpha value (á=.05). Since P<.05, the result was significant, therefore the null hypothesis was rejected. This implied that, utilization of journal articles has significant influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 8 showed the Chi-square calculated value of 989.712, degree of freedom df=21 and a sig (P-value=0.00) which was less than the alpha value (á=.05). Since P<.05, the result was significant, therefore the null hypothesis was rejected. This implied that, utilization of journal articles has significant influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria.

Discussion

The first finding of the study revealed that, the information resources utilized by academic staff for research productivity in universities in Benue State include: textbooks, journal articles, magazines, newspapers, conference proceedings, research reports, monographs, government documents, projects, theses, dissertations, dictionaries, encyclopedias, indexes, abstracts, maps, e-books, e-databases, e-conference proceedings, e-projects, e-theses, e-dissertations, and e-research reports except newsletters, patents, e-maps, videos, DVDs and CDs. This finding corroborates with that of Musa, Musa and Musa (2014) whose study on assessment of indexing and abstracting services in Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Library, Zaria, Nigeria reported that academic staff were the most users of indexes and abstracts with 62.5% response. The finding however, disagrees with that of Oriogu, Chukwuemeka and Oriogu-Ogbuiyi (2018) who investigated faculty awareness, perception and use of information resources and services in Afe Babalola university college libraries and reported that, majority of the respondents (academic staff) do not use e-book, e-journals, theses/dissertation, OPAC and electronic databases in the library except for CD-ROM databases. The finding of the present study as observed could be that, utilization of library information resources among academic staff in universities in Benue State is paramount for their research productivity, hence the high utilization of the resources observed.

The findings of the study also revealed that, textbooks utilization has positive influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria. As revealed from the findings of the study, academic staff agreed that, the use of textbooks influences up-dating of knowledge; the use of textbooks influences authoritative source of knowledge; use of textbooks influences development of lecture materials; use of textbooks influences effective supervision of students' projects; use of textbooks influences writing of conference papers and using of textbooks influences writing of articles for publication among others. Similarly, a related test of hypothesis revealed that, utilization of textbooks has significant influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria. This finding agrees with that of Attama (2013) who investigated library resources utilization and publication output of academic staff of Polytechnics in south-east and south-south Nigeria and reported that, library resources like books have high significant influence on books published by academic staff of polytechnics. This finding as observed could be why Popoola and Haliso (2009) reported that the use of (Textbooks) could help academic staff to carryout innovative studies that support research productivity. Textbooks seem to be very important instrument in teaching and learning. Hence it is one of the information resources that can aid academic staff in creating effective lecture notes for students and also provides a reliable point of reference.

Lastly, the findings of the study revealed that, journal articles utilization has positive influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State, Nigeria. As revealed from the findings of the study, academic staff agreed that, the

use of journal articles influences quality source of knowledge; use of journal articles influences current source of knowledge; use of journal articles influences writing of research papers for publication; use of journal articles influences effective supervision of students' projects; use of journal articles influences effective supervision of students' theses and dissertations and use of journal articles influences writing of books among others. In a similar vein, a related test of hypothesis revealed that, journal articles utilization has significant influence on research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State. This finding corroborates with that of Haliso and Laja-Ademola (2013) whose study on influence of information use on academic productivity of lecturers in Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria reported that, journals have the highest influence on lecturers' productivity as they consult information to keep up with current development in their field. Similarly, Parameshwar and Patil (2009) reported high use of e-journals for research productivity. The finding also corroborate with that of Attama (2013) who investigated library resources utilization and publication output of academic staff of Polytechnics in south-east and south-south Nigeria and reported that, library resources (like journal articles) have high significant influence on book/monographs published by academic staff of polytechnics. This could be why Olanlokun&Salisu in Ogunniyi, Akerele and Afolabi (2011) stated that for academic staff to be current and productive, they need current and relevant journals. This finding as observed could be that, journal articles utilization plays a vital role in enhancing the research productivity of academic staff in universities in Benue State.

Conclusion

The study concluded that, utilization of library information resources like textbooks and journal articles has significantly influence positively the research productivity of academic staff in Universities in Benue State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the Study, the following recommendations were made

1. Library management should ensure continuous sensitization of academic staff on the availability of information resources that are found to be utilized for research productivity in the university libraries, and also enlighten academic staff through workshops on the relevance of electronic resources such as e-maps, videos, DVDs and CDs in enhancing research productivity.
2. Library management should ensure that university libraries are well equipped with relevant text books and also ensure continuous sensitization of academic staff on the availability of textbooks in the library since its utilization is found to enhance their research productivity.
3. Library management should ensure adequate provision of current and relevant journal articles in the libraries for use by academic staff since its utilization is found to enhance their research productivity.

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